

for our file

NBC BRIEFING

31 January 1957

ALGERIAN CRISIS

- I. 3-day rebel "insurrectionary general strike" in Algeria appears to have been suspended.
 - A. 90% effective in city of Algiers, east and central Algeria on first day, less so on second and third.
 - B. Strike action may be revived at time of UN debate (scheduled Mon.).
 - C. Among half-million Algerians in France, strike still continuing strong.
- II. European-Moslem tension in Algeria at all-time high. Violence by rebels, "colons," or French military could bring explosion.
 - A. French expect terrorist provocation in hope colon retaliation on Budapest scale. Also expect rebel attempts capture Tlemcen, Tebessa.
- III. Most explosive element: tough colon attitude. They have counter-terrorist HQ, quasi-military reprisal units.
 - A. Army attitude another imponderable; widespread sympathy for colons, criticism of Paris.
 1. Three generals "disciplined" for flirting with colons.
 - B. Should colons attack Moslems, Army unlikely to restore order.
- IV. Dillon believes, if Algerian situation goes "very sour," right-wing French might attempt overthrow Fourth Republic.
 - A. Paris by-election, however, showed support for Mollet's Algeria views.
 - B. Mollet emissary also recently in touch with rebel reps.

SECRET

- C. Some belief rebels may accept Mollet cease-fire terms.
- V. In UN, French hope to pass off problem with painless procedural moves: still intend to leave UN if French role Algeria officially condemned.